17 States. Under these projects, selected farmers are provided with seed minikits and other quality seeds. rhyzobium culture, plant protection services, gypsum, plant protection equipment etc. at concessional terms in order to step up their oilseed yields. Modern Oilseeds technology is also demonstrated in their fields.

In the year 1987-88, which saw normal rainfall only in 40 per cent of meteorological sub-divisions, oilseeds production in the country reached an estimated 122 lakh tonnes. This is a 6 per cent increase over the preceding year, which had a more favourable monsoon with normal rainfall in 60 per cent of the meteorological sub-divisions.

Thanks to the adoption of technology and use of improved inputs by the farmers in the favourable monsoon of kharif 1988, a record production of oilseeds is expected.

Import of Foodgrains

*56. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imported foodgrains like wheat and rice in recent months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some more imports of foodgrains are planned in the near future;

(c) the toal stock foodgrains reserves in the country at present; and

(d) the optimum level at which Government would like to hold foodgrains stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have contracted for import of 2 million tonnes of wheat and 8.5 lakh tonnes of rice during the current year.

(b) Government has its option open to import further quantities of foodgrains, if required.

(c) The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on 1-9-88 was about 9.2 million tonnes.

(d) The level of foodgrain stocks depends on several factors, such as, seasonality, market availability, demand and offtake under Public Distribution System, etc.

Closing down of units of the H.F.C.

*57. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down all the four units of the public sector Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these units are ageing and they need rehabilitation; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken so far in the matter; and

(e) whether there is any labour problem in these units?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The four units of Namrup— I and II, Durgapur and Barauni are ageing and in order to identify the reasons for their unsatisfactory performance, Government appointed foreign consultants for an end-to-end survey. The consultants have recommended rehabilitation of these units. The recommendations are being processed for a decision. With a view to avoiding production loss on account of power cuts/failure, captive power plants have already been installed at Durgapur and Namrup while at Barauni a captive power plant is under installation.